

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit : 2851

Appl. No. : 10/646,698

Examiner : David M. GRAY

Filed : August 25, 2003

Confirmation No. : 1550

For : PHOTOGRAPHING LENS HAVING AN OPTICAL ELEMENT
RETRACTING MECHANISM



FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Applicant calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in Office Actions that were mailed on December 28, 2004 with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,193 and 10/815,194:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,791,441 to NISHI et al., which issued on December 13, 1988;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 4,451,129 IKARI et al., which issued on May 29, 1984.

Applicant notes that this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(3) U.S. Patent No. 3,377,427 to FISCHER, which issued on April 9, 1968;

(4) U.S. Patent No. 5,715,482 to WAKABAYASHI et al., which issued on February 3, 1998;

(5) U.S. Patent No. 4,597,657 to WAKABAYASHI, which issued on July 1, 1986;

(6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-313790, which was published on November 29, 1996, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(7) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-230263, which was published on August 19, 1994, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(8) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-254054, which was published on September 25, 1998, together with an English language abstract of the same; and

(9) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-149723. Applicant notes that this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following documents (10)-(17) which were cited in a Japanese Office Action (a copy of which will be submitted as soon as it becomes available to Applicant) that issued in a

Japanese patent family member of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

2003/0156832:

(10) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-023002, which was published on January 21, 2000, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(11) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-308592, which was published on November 4, 1994, together with an English language abstract of the same, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(12) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-199019, which was published on August 4, 1995, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(13) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-313226, which was published on November 26, 1993, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(14) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-295050, which was published on November 10, 1995, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(15) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-5849, which was published on January 10, 1997, together with an English language abstract of the same;

(16) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 61-133933, which was published on June 21, 1986, together with an English language abstract of the

same and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,841,323 to MINORU et al., which issued on June 20, 1989; and

(17) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-114473, which was published on April 18, 2003, together with an English language abstract of the same.

With respect to documents (10)-(15) and (17), Applicant notes that English language translations are not readily available. However, such English language translations will be submitted together with an Information Disclosure Statement as soon as they become available.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in a United Kingdom Search Report that issued in United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0422629.6 on February 24, 2005:

(18) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2004-257555, which was published on September 16, 2004. Applicant notes that this Publication is a family member of U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0042902, the application of which was previously identified in an Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of this Laid-Open Publication is thus not being submitted herewith.

However, if a copy of the same is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned;

(19) United Kingdom Patent Application Publication No. GB 2394787, which was published on May 5, 2004. Applicant notes that this document is a patent family member of document (18) and thus a copy of this United Kingdom Publication is not being submitted herewith. However, should a copy be needed,

the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned. Applicant additionally brings to the Examiner's attention its patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042092 to NOMURA (mentioned above), which was published on March 4, 2004. Applicant notes that this U.S. Patent Application was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(20) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0141735 to NOMURA, which was published on July 22, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(21) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0062536 to NOMURA, which was published on April 1, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(22) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042776 to NOMURA, which was published on March 4, 2004. Applicant notes that this document was previously brought to the Examiner's attention in an Information Disclosure Statement;

(23) U.S. Patent No. 6,185,375 to KAZUO, which issued on February 6, 2001; and

(24) U.S. Patent No. 5,715,482 to WAKABAYASHI et al., which issued on February 3, 1998. Applicant notes that this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the United Examiner are set forth in the United Kingdom Search Report.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the documents (6)-(8) and (10)-(19) are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.


Applicant notes that a Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Applicant further calls to the Examiner's attention U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0227844 to SAKAMOTO, which was published on November 18, 2004. Applicant notes that while the publication is not prior art to the present application and the claims contained therein are not understandable to the Applicant of the present application, in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §135, Applicant calls this publication to the Examiner's attention in the event that the

Examiner may determine that any claims therein contain subject matter that is substantially the same as any of the claims of the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

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April 4, 2005
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P23697Application No.
10/646,698INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Hiroshi NOMURAFiling Date
August 25, 2003Group
2851

APR 04 2005

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLA SS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4 7 9 1 4 4 1	12/13/88	NISHI et al.			
	4 4 5 1 1 2 9	05/29/84	IKARI et al.			
	3 3 7 7 4 2 7	04/09/68	FISCHER			
	5 7 1 5 4 8 2	02/03/98	WAKABAYASHI et al.			
	4 5 9 7 6 5 7	07/01/86	WAKABAYASHI et al.			
	4 8 4 1 3 2 3	06/20/89	MINORU et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
8	- 3 1 3 7 9 0	11/29/96	JAPAN			
6	- 2 3 0 2 6 3	08/19/94	JAPAN			
10	- 2 5 4 0 5 4	09/25/98	JAPAN			
2003	- 1 4 9 7 2 3	05/21/03	JAPAN			
2000	- 0 2 3 0 0 2	01/21/00	JAPAN			
6	- 3 0 8 5 9 2	11/04/94	JAPAN			
7	- 1 9 9 0 1 9	08/04/95	JAPAN			
5	- 3 1 3 2 2 6	11/26/93	JAPAN			
7	- 2 9 5 0 5 0	11/10/95	JAPAN			
	9 - 5 8 4 9	01/10/97	JAPAN			
61	- 1 3 3 9 3 3	06/21/86	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	English Language Abstract of JP 8-313790.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 6-230263.
3	English Language Abstract of JP 10-254054.
4	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-023002.
5	English Language Abstract of JP 6-308592.
6	English Language Abstract of JP 7-199019.
7	English Language Abstract of JP 5-313226.
8	English Language Abstract of JP 7-295050.
9	English Language Abstract of JP 9-5849.
1 0	English Language Abstract of JP 61-133933.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. P23697	Application No. 10/646,724
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA	
		Filing Date August 25, 2003	Group 2851

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2004/	0	1	4	1	7	3	5	07/22/04	NOMURA			
	2004/	0	0	6	2	5	3	6	04/01/04	NOMURA			
	2004/	0	0	4	2	7	7	6	03/04/04	NOMURA			
		6	1	8	5	3	7	5	02/06/01	KAZUO			
		5	7	1	5	4	8	2	02/03/98	WAKABAYASHI et al.			
	2004/	0	0	4	2	0	9	2	03/04/04	NOMURA			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	2003	-	1	1	4	4	7	3	04/18/03	JAPAN				
	2004	-	2	5	7	5	5	5	09/16/04	JAPAN				
		2	3	9	4	7	8	7	05/05/04	UNITED KINGDOM				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	1	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-114473.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	